expressed in any of these adults. This was the first opportunity to observe adults which knowingly developed from mutant larvae.

This observation further extends the known range of this mutation within the distribution of *L. dispar*. Documented reports now indicate that the mutation occurs in Japan, Korea, USSR (at least the Ukraine) and Europe (several locations) (sources cited previously), which further supports the belief that this mutation occurs throughout the Palearctic region.

Table 1. Incidence of Black-backed larval mutants of *Lymantria dispar* (L.) from Ukrainian SSR, USSR, as based on field collected material received at Beneficial Insects Research Laboratory, USDA, Newark, DE, in June 1981.

Collection Location	Date(s)	Number Larvae	Number Mutants	Mutants (%)	Host Plant(s)
Mukacevo 48.3° N, 22.5° E	June 5	514	1	0.19	*Quercus* spp., *Fagus* spp. *Populus nigra pyramidalis* Rozan
Novomoskovsk 48.3° N, 35.1° E	June 1 & 7	315	3	0.95	*Quercus robur* L., *Malus* spp.
Zaporozje 47.5° N, 35.1° E	June 7	100	8	8.00	*Malus* spp.
Kherson 47.4° N, 32.4° E	June 3 & 6	299	10	3.34	*Salix* spp., *Populus nigra pyramidalis* Rozan
Totals		1228	22	1.79	

Paul W. Schaefer, 4 Dare Drive, Glen Farms, Elkton, MD 21921
William E. Wallner, Northeastern Forest Expt. Stn., USDA, FS, Forest Insect and Disease Lab., 51 Mill Pond Rd., Hamden, CT 06514
Mark Ticehurst, Dept. Environmental Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Div. Forest Pest Management, Central Area, Box 67, Blain, PA 17006

Lateral Perching in *Brephidium exilis* (Boisduval) (Lycaenidae) in Texas

Lateral basking and lateral perching has been observed in a number of butterfly species, especially pierids, which appear to use lateral postures in thermoregulation. Satyrids seem to reduce their shadows and maximize cryptic coloration by leaning against the ground. In other families lateral perching behavior is less often reported. It was therefore surprising to find a striking example of it in the Pigmy Blue, *Brephidium exilis*. The purpose of such behavior in this species has not been studied, but may well be protection against mechanical damage from wind. Shields (1974, Jr. Lep. Soc. 28:78) reported a similar phenomenon in *Euphilotes rita* in a sandstorm.

On 13 December 1981, on the shore of Nueces Bay, near Portland, San Patricio Co., Texas, my wife Kay reported seeing a number of specimens of *B. exilis* perched on the terminal shoots of an *Atriplex* species (Chenopodiaceae) and other non-chenopod marsh plants, holding their wings horizontally and folded tightly together. Since the day was overcast, steady at 16°C, and with an estimated 14-20 knot wind, as reported by the U. S. Weather Service and verified locally with a hand-held anemometer, I was quick to note and photograph the occurrence. Within a short period of observation (between 1330 and 1445 CST) at least 45 specimens were observed. They were generally aggregate in distribution, six or eight often being seen within a few meters. All were within 30 to 60 cm above the ground, clinging to the tops of the thin, stemmy vegetation, and all were positioned within about 25 degrees of horizontal (Fig. 1). Their various slight tilts were not accurately aligned with the sun, which was totally obscured by clouds. In all cases the wings pointed downwind, as a horizontal flag would fly. In sheltered areas where eddying currents ran counter to the predominant wind direction, it was possible to roughly predict the breeze by observing the compass heading of the wings.

Suspecting that vertically perched specimens might be overlooked, I spent considerable time viewing through the vegetation at eye level, but was unable to find one vertically perched individual.

In all cases the wings were tightly closed, the primaries tucked behind the secondaries. The antennae were always neatly together and projecting forward, fully exposed. All specimens but one were "asleep", reacting very little to being touched, often pivoting slightly on their perches and usually reorienting to a more nearly vertical posture. When picked up and released they appeared unable to sustain flight, fluttering weakly into the deeper weeds without attempting a return

to the previous positions. In some cases the antennae could be stroked with no effect.

At the onset of these observations one specimen was seen flying and alighting twice to bask in the more usual fashion, opening its wings partially and attempting to orient to sunlight, which it could not find. This specimen was seen to pivot 360 degrees before flying out of sight downwind.

The lateral posture of *Brephidium* under these circumstances did not strongly suggest basking or thermoregulating, due to minimization of the exposed wing area. The background vegetation was flecked with disused spider webs which apparently had contained egg cases. At a distance of several meters the similarity of the butterflies to these objects was striking, and it is possible that arthropod or avian predators could be deceived by this "mimicry." Up close, however, these web "models" are quite different in shape and detail from their butterfly "mimics."

While blues in a lateral position are highly visible from above, they are very difficult to see edge-on. Shorebirds or other would-be predators of similar height may have difficulty spotting them. Also, pale colors against a bright, cloudy sky may blend the way fish and other creatures with pale bellies do, as protection from below.

Since this observation was made, on 14 April 1982, at 1320 hours in Barton Creek near Austin, Travis Co., Texas, a single individual of *Echinargus isola* (Reakirt) was seen perching in an identical manner on the petals of a blooming garden *Coreopsis* (Compositae) flower. It was not feeding, and when picked up with fingers and released it was able to sustain flight. The day was heavily overcast and rain was only minutes from falling, but the wind was slight and the temperature nearly 20°C.

I intend to make further observations on this matter and encourage other students to document similar observations and make them available in order to gain an understanding of the phenomenon and its causes.

The author wishes to thank Christopher J. Durden for encouragement in preparation of this note.

Samuel A. Johnson, 2412 Indian Trail, Austin, TX 78703

Dione moneta poeyii Butler [1873] in New Mexico (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae)

The first reported capture in New Mexico of the neotropical butterfly *Dione moneta poeyii* was made on 28 April 1981 at Sunspot (Otero County). The female specimen was taken by hand while nectaring on a yellow composite. Sunspot is located on Sacramento Peak, 9250′ (2819 m) and has abundant, roadside wildflowers present there in the late spring and summer. It is situated in south central New Mexico in the Sacramento Mountains, and offers a montane, conifer woodland habitat characterized by Douglas fir, juniper, Gambel oak, and aspen. The habitat at Sunspot is unlike that at *D. moneta poeyii*'s nearest reported capture site in southwest Texas. Whether this individual specimen is a 'straggler' by Gilbert's (J. Lepid. Soc. 23(3):177-185, 1969) definition or evidence of a local population is impossible to say from a single specimen. Possibly the unusually hot, dry, southerly winds that year played a role in its presence in New Mexico. The specimen was in fairly good condition, but for a pair of beak marks on the hind